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Col. Alberto takes command of depot

by Anthony Ricchiazzi
Editor

Col. Ron P. Alberto accepted the Tobyhanna Army Depot flag from Maj. Gen. Michael R. Mazzucchi to ceremoniously, and officially, take command of Tobyhanna Army Depot last Thursday morning.

Afterwards, Alberto complimented depot employees, saying Tobyhanna is recognized "across the Army and the rest of the Department of Defense."

"It is known that Tobyhanna Army Depot is a place where a professional and dedicated team maintains and sustains the high tech equipment that allows our Soldiers, Sailors Airmen and Marines to successfully accomplish their missions and to defend our values and way of life," he said. "The depot's tradition of mission accomplishment, in both peace and war, is unprecedented and tremendously rich. It is my honor and privilege to assume command of Tobyhanna, to follow in the footsteps of previous commanders, and to become a part of your tradition."

Alberto pledged his commitment to "caring, compassionate and exacting leadership" and said the depot's priorities will remain sharply focused to support the Global War on Terrorism.

"We owe the Warriors who depend upon our equipment for mission success nothing less than our very best," he said. "Furthermore, we owe the citizens who fund our critical work the best value for their investment."

Alberto thanked Mazzucchi for his confidence and the Army for entrusting him with command of Tobyhanna.

"It is with the greatest humility, enthusiasm and commitment that I accept responsibility for the mission at Tobyhanna Army Depot."

He then thanked his family, including his wife, Col. Donna Alberto, noting that their support has been crucial to his success.

Mazzucchi welcomed Alberto, saying Tobyhanna and the C-E LCMC have gained "an outstanding officer and leader, trained and prepared for the challenges of the weeks and months ahead."

"He brings a record of accomplishments that gives me complete confidence that he is ready for the command of an installation and a team, which are so essential to the readiness of our joint war fighters," Mazzucchi added.

A 1983 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., after completing the Ordnance Officer Basic Course, Alberto attended the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Course prior to his first assignment at the 512th EOD Control Center, Vielsek, Germany. He then attended the Royal British EOD School before taking command of the 3rd EOD Detachment, Augsburg, Germany.

Alberto also served the U.S. Army Missile Command in Saudi Arabia as a member of the Ammunition Retrograde Team. He then served in the 2nd Infantry Division at Camp Casey, Republic of Korea, as the division ammunition officer and the division support command supply officer.

As a lieutenant colonel, he commanded the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant, Independence, Mo. He followed command as chief of the Ordnance Enlisted Branch, Army Human Resources Command, Alexandria, Va.

Alberto's assignment prior to assuming command of Tobyhanna was with the 8th U.S. Army Support Operations Officer, Yongsan, Republic of Korea.

Mazzucchi also praised Ellis for outstanding leadership over three "very demanding" years, saying that Tobyhanna successfully adapted to tremendous



Col. Ron Alberto, right, accepts command of Tobyhanna Army Depot from Maj. Gen. Michael R. Mazzucchi, commander, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command, during Thursday's Change of Command ceremony. (Photo by Tony Medici)

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Second phase of NSPS begins in October

WASHINGTON (AFPN)—The Defense Department announced plans July 12 to transfer more than 66,000 additional DoD civilian employees into the new National Security Personnel System beginning in October.

The plan, delivered to Congress ushers in the second phase in implementing the new pay-for-performance personnel system and affects organizations throughout DoD.

The first 11,000 DoD civilian employees were converted to the new system under “Spiral 1.1” of the phase-in on April 30. Defense officials are taking cues from this group to help smooth the way for the “Spiral 1.2” transition.

Mary Lacey, NSPS program executive officer, recently met with senior leaders from the Spiral 1.1 transition to identify what worked well and what improvements are needed.

“We are already assessing implementation for the first group of employees,” she said.

The transition for the first group ran smoothly. Officials reported a 99.9 percent accuracy rate in completing affected employees’ personnel actions and no glitches in processing their pay through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

“We are pleased with what we are seeing thus far, at least with the technical aspects of the conversion,” Lacey said.

The Spiral 1.2 roll-in will take place over a four-month period through January 2007, and will include civilian employees from organizations throughout DoD, including some overseas.

Affected components will have the discretion to

convert their work force any time between October 2006 and January 2007 to ensure enough time to train their employees, Lacey said.

“Training is critical to the successful transition to NSPS,” she said. “We want to give organizations sufficient time to train employees, do it right and implement when they are ready.”

Ultimately, the system will apply to more than 650,000 DoD civilian employees.

Employees being converted to the new system will receive new performance plans that are clearly linked to their organization’s mission and strategic goals. They also will be converted to pay bands that replace the grade ratings under the general schedule.

Officials emphasized that no employee will lose pay during the conversion to NSPS. Most will receive an initial pay bump to account for time already earned toward their next within-grade increase. A conversion tool in the NSPS 101 course, posted on the NSPS Web site, helps employees estimate of the value of their within-grade-increase, as well as their career group and pay band under the new system.

The performance appraisal cycle for Spiral 1.2 employees will begin on the actual day of their conversion to NSPS and continue through Sept. 30, 2007. These employees will receive their first performance pay increase in January 2008.

The ongoing NSPS conversion includes only the human resources parts of the system, which include job classification, compensation, performance management, staffing and work force-shaping elements.

It does not include elements of the new system involving labor relations, collective bargaining, independent third-party review, adverse actions and the National Security Labor Relations Board.

DoD and the Office of Personnel Management have appealed a late February court decision blocking implementation of these provisions. U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan ruled that they would fail to protect civilian employees’ ability to bargain collectively. The decision was based on a lawsuit filed by the American Federation of Government Employees and 12 other labor unions.

Defense officials hope for a decision on the appeal by the year’s end as they continue implementing parts of the new personnel system not caught up in litigation.

NSPS is one of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld’s key initiatives designed to transform DoD operations to better meet 21st-century needs.

It is replacing what officials call an outdated, 50-year-old civilian personnel management system that rewards employees for length of service rather than performance. The new program, in development since 2003, replaces the current general schedule personnel system with broad pay bands.

“NSPS is critical to the department’s transformation to a results-oriented, mission-focused culture,” said Michael Dominguez, principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for personnel and readiness. “The performance-based system will create an environment where our employees will be focused on outcomes that support our national security mission, and they will be rewarded for the results.”

Army moving toward more joint, capable aircraft

by Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON—The idea of the services operating jointly with fewer aircraft platforms that share common features is the key to the modernization effort taking place throughout the military aviation community, the Army Aviation director said here July 18.

Army Brig. Gen. Stephen D. Mundt called the trend toward jointness a key driver in aviation modernization programs. “It’s critical we work together. It’s a joint world,” he said. “There is no way that this nation can afford for everybody to have their own specific capabilities and be redundant across the board.”

But Mundt told Pentagon reporters he’s concerned by budget cuts being eyed by Congress that threaten to set back the first major step toward that goal. These cuts could delay by as long as two years production of the Joint Cargo Aircraft and ultimately, drive up the price, he said.

They could also affect another major Army aviation program: the Armored Reconnaissance Helicopter, he said.

“It’s like a self-licking ice cream cone. I don’t know a better way to describe it,” he said. “If you take money out of the program, you have to increase the schedule, because you can’t buy everything you want within the same timeframe. If you increase the schedule, you increase the cost, ... because if you don’t buy it today, it doesn’t get cheaper tomorrow. The cost goes up.”

Initially, the RAH-66 Comanche

helicopter was the centerpiece of the Army’s modernization effort, but that project got scrapped in February 2004. Funds from the Comanche program got channeled into other aviation projects, including the Joint Cargo Aircraft.

The JCA, being developed jointly by the Army and Air Force, will replace multiple other fixed-wing platforms - the Army C-23 Sherpa, C-26 Metroliner and C-12 Huron, and for some smaller missions, the Air Force C-130 Hercules. The request for proposals for the new aircraft is currently on the streets, Mundt said, and the Army hopes to begin adding the first JCAs to its fleet in fiscal 2007.

Mundt said a memorandum of agreement signed last month by the two services to pave the way ahead for the aircraft’s development defies all who said it would never happen. “Against everybody who said the Army and Air Force will never sign an MOA to go to the same aircraft, we did it,” he said. “It is a different world today. ... It is much easier for us to talk from a joint environment, joint concept, so that’s exactly what ... Joint Cargo Aircraft does.”

Capable of landing and taking off on a very short runway, the JCA will be critical to providing supplies to forward-deployed troops, Mundt said. With JCA, the Army could fly into 29 additional airfields in Iraq and another 10 airfields in Afghanistan.

“Which means Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines would not be on the roads driving,” Mundt said. “We would not be flying the wings off the CH-47s that we’re

already under-resourced on.”

The JCA will absorb much of the stress being placed on the Army’s CH-47 helicopter fleet, which has amassed almost 1.2 million flight hours since October 2001.

“That’s a lot of hours, four to five times the number of hours we normally would accrue on any one of these platforms,” Mundt “CH-47s have been serving us forever (and are an) exceptional platform. But we are literally flying the wings off of them.”

The JCA offers another benefit over the Sherpa; it can fly above 10,000 feet without supplemental oxygen, so it’s able to be used for medical evacuation. The Army currently pays contractors to perform this service in Afghanistan.

Another major modernization program,

the Armored Reconnaissance Helicopter, will replace the aging and overtaxed OH-58D Kiowa Warrior fleet, Mundt said. Each OH-58D currently flies about 70 hours a month, vs. the 14 hours a month it was designed for, he said.

“The Armored Reconnaissance Helicopter is a much more powerful, much more capable (aircraft) with better sensors (and) platform for what we are trying to do,” he said. It features a larger, enhanced engine, upgraded tail rotor and improved glass cockpit.

The Army awarded a contract to Bell Helicopter Textron Inc., for delivery of 38 of the new ARH aircraft by fiscal 2008, with an additional 300 to be delivered by fiscal 2013.

TOBYHANNA REPORTER

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Army approves new command to improve logistics management

To streamline end-to-end logistics in support of the Army's modular force, the Army approved a new subordinate command under the Army Materiel Command. This change transforms AMC's Army Field Support Command at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., to the Army Sustainment Command.

"The Army is transforming and so is the Army Materiel Command," said Greg Kee, AMC deputy chief of staff, G-5, strategic plans and policy. "AMC is realigning its organizational structures to support the Army modular force from the brigade to the national level," he said.

Transitioning into the ASC expands AFSC's mission, which already includes managing the Army's pre-positioned stocks, the Logistics Civilian Augmentation Program and field support. Kee noted that this transformation adds reset synchronization, distribution and materiel management functions and integrating logistics support with joint and strategic partners.

To more closely support combatant commands, ASC will add authorizations for several hundred Soldiers, while realigning a number of civilians with the command's global operations.

"Standing-up the ASC is a step in the right direction to improve logistical support to the Warfighter for several reasons, said Lt. Gen. William Mortensen, AMC deputy commanding general. (Army Materiel Command Public and Congressional Affairs Office).

NEWS NOTES

NARFE members meet

The Pocono Chapter of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Association has meetings on the last Tuesday of each month, except January and February, at 1 p.m. in the Tobyhanna Army Depot Chapel. Refreshments are served before and after the meetings. A Christmas party and picnic will be announced.

For further meeting information, or to learn more about NARFE, contact Oscar Lollis, chapter president, 570-839-9968, or olollis@ptd.net.

Correction

In the July 11 *Reporter*, Tracey Condi took the photo of the Madison Jazz band on Page 4. The *Reporter* apologizes for the error.

FEW to host luncheon

The Tobyhanna chapter of Federally Employed Women is hosting a Women's Equality Day luncheon Aug. 31 at The Landing. Guest speaker is Jill Garrett of WNEP-TV16 News. Tickets cost \$9 and are available through directorate secretaries.

For more information, call Brenda StDuran, X57615.

TACSAT upgrade links warfighter to world

by Jacqueline Boucher
Assistant Editor

A partnership between Tobyhanna and the Marine Corps to Reset and upgrade communications terminals links warfighters deployed worldwide to the United States via satellite.

Technicians are upgrading eight AN/TSC-93C Tactical Satellite Terminals (TACSAT) under the Service Life Extension Program (SLEP). The terminals are being upgraded from a C- to D-model as part of a multi-million dollar program to increase the life expectancy of a system that is over 20 years old. Nine systems were upgraded this year.

"Upgrades are necessary to keep up with modern technology so the user can get the data transfer rate needed to accomplish the mission," said Mark Fagotti, electronics engineer, Tactical Satellite Design and Support Division, Production Engineering Directorate. "SATCOM electronics keep changing and Tobyhanna works hard to keep up with technology."

The TSC-93 is a tactical satellite terminal used in the field or at in-theater locations. It allows deployed forces to access voice, video, e-mail and non-secure Internet protocol router network (NIPRNET) services through gateway terminals. The system directs a signal to a satellite which deflects it to a gateway terminal in Kuwait, Germany, England or other SATCOM sites around the world.

Depot technicians design, test, certify, manufacture and field all Army and Marine TACSAT systems.

Using SLEP the depot has upgraded 106 Army and nine Marine TSC-93s, extending the terminal life cycle to 2012, according to Fagotti. Tobyhanna will also perform D-model upgrades on Marine Corps AN/TSC-85Cs.

There are 47 people working three shifts upgrading the terminals inside the Tactical End Item Repair Facility (TEIRF) building. The TSC-85, carried on a 5-ton truck, serves as the main hub for the TSC-93, carried on a Humvee.

Fagotti said the "D" upgrade replaces over half of the TSC-93 legacy electronics subsystems with state-of-the-art satellite communications technology. The "D" remodel includes rebuilding the base-band side of the shelter from scratch and several upgrades on the radio frequency side. The upgrade also includes work on the 8-foot antenna dish.

Technicians are enhancing the 93s high-voltage power supply and tactical satellite signal processor multi-plexer, replacing FM order wires and completing applicable documentation and training.

"I feel good about the work done here," said Dawn Albrecht. "It's rewarding to see the smiles on the Soldiers when they get to use the newer technology." Albrecht inventories the wiring kits and does other prep work for the upgrades. She is an electronics mechanic in the Satellite Communications Division, Communications Systems Directorate.

Paula Brodie preps the terminals by removing the old equipment and restocking the terminals. The electronics mechanic said, "It's great to give these guys the technology that lets them run the equipment from the computer versus manually. When you think of all they do, it's not hard to go above and beyond."

As part of the upgrade program, teams are prepared to travel to locations around the world: Georgia, Germany, Kuwait, Okinawa, Nevada and Arizona. Team members use depot prepared kits to make on-site repairs.

Brian Brogan is an electronics mechanic who likes to travel to deployed locations. He said he finds the units supportive and his work rewarding.

It's the changes in technology that make all the difference, according to Rick Simpson. "New technology not only makes the Soldiers life easier, it makes our job easier because the new

equipment is easier to understand," he said.

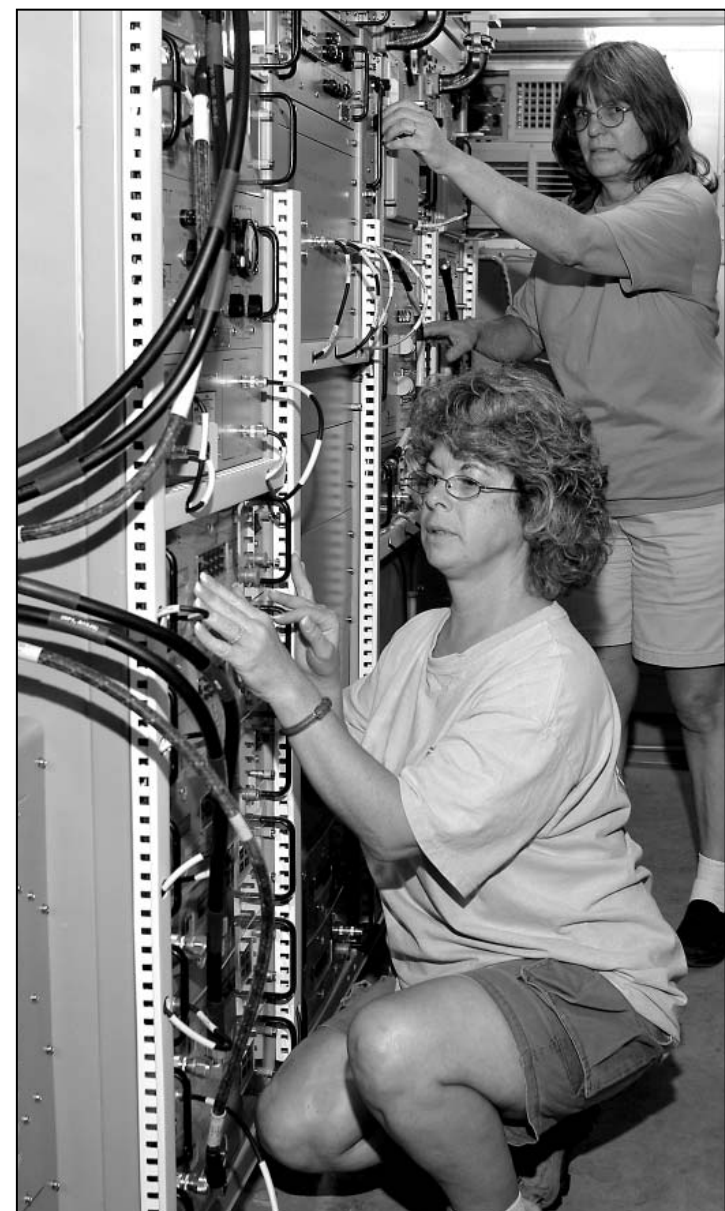
In addition to the standard upgrades, Tobyhanna engineers developed optional electronics packages for purchase by individual Army and Marine Corps units. These packages provide additional capability above the normal D-model upgrade. The Marines and National Guard have purchased these options: a global positioning satellite receiver, UPS (uninterruptible power system) and a fiber optic modem.

Tobyhanna has been repairing, testing and upgrading TACSAT terminals since they were fielded in the mid-1980s. C-model upgrades to the frequency converter and satellite modem started in 1996.

After the system to replace the TSC-85s and TSC-93s was cancelled in 2001, the Army decided to enter into a service life extension program. The D-model program was funded in 2003. That same year, technicians built, tested and certified prototypes. The first manufacturing program began in 2004.

"It took nearly a year to procure everything needed to begin the SLEP upgrades," Fagotti said. "Cooperative efforts by the depot and several companies have made the program work."

"It's great to bring the equipment up to date," said Bob Rosencrans, electronics mechanic. "It's nice knowing what we do here makes the Soldier's lives easier."



Dawn Albrecht, front, adjusts the high power amplifier on an AN/TSC-93C while Paula Brodie programs the digital data modem. The tactical satellite terminal is being upgraded from a C- to D-model as part of a multi-million dollar program to increase the life expectancy of the 20-year-old system. (Photo by Steve Grzedzinski)

Feature stories sought

The *Tobyhanna Reporter* is looking for feature stories about depot employees. If you have, or know someone who has, an interesting story to tell, contact the *Reporter* staff (see contact information on Page 2).

We've published articles about employee interests ranging from boat racing to blacksmithing; some have earned awards at the highest levels of the Army.



PSCC helps prepare for possible pandemic

by Anthony Ricchiazzi
Editor

Shipping containers designed for the avian influenza (bird flu) virus recently passed tests conducted by the Packaging Applications Testing Facility of the Packaging, Storage and Containerization Center.

Charlotte Lent, the lab's hazardous materials packaging testing program leader, said the containers were designed to be used to ship throat swabs in the event of an avian flu pandemic, but is qualified for transportation of fluid and tissue samples of any of the most highly infectious solid and airborne contaminants and pathogens (e.g., SARS, West Nile Virus.)

The lab is part of the Logistics Support Activity's Packaging Storage and Containerization Center (PSCC), Army Materiel Command (AMC). In the Logistics Testing and Applications Division, PSCC evaluates, designs and tests containers, packaging and storage systems.

The "bird flu" container was designed and built for commercial purposes by ARAMSCO, Thorofare, N.J., using a transit case supplied by AMERIPACK, Cranbury, N.J. Lent said ARAMSCO contracted PSCC to test it in accordance with international certification requirements.

The container must be composed of a minimum of three parts. The primary components are 23 specimen vials. They are contained in a secondary cylinder based on a scuba diving flashlight. That cylinder is contained in a padded plastic case. The case is then placed in an outer fiberboard box, sealed with tape.

"One of the specifications for the container is that it be completely leakproof," Lent explained. "It also must be able to handle changes in atmospheric pressure for transport by aircraft."

Sky Evans, an engineering intern; Mike Green, general engineer; and Ben Moore, SAIC contract engineer, put 21 complete containers or the internal components through the multiple tests for infectious substances shippers as required by Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations:

- Five complete containers were placed in a rain chamber for 1 hour at the equivalent of two inches per hour, then dropped 30 feet.
- Five complete containers were placed in a freezer for 72 hours at 0° F, then dropped 30 feet.
- To test their resistance to puncturing, a 15-pound rod was dropped from three feet on the bottom and side of two complete containers.
- After each test, checks for air leakages from the cylinder were conducted by submerging the cylinder under water in a vacuum chamber.

• A separate pressure test was conducted at 72, 131 and minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit, each for 30 seconds at maximum reduced atmospheric pressure to simulate travel in aircraft. The container is rated at being able to withstand pressure changes at altitude as a safety measure to ensure it can take pressure changes at typical aircraft flying altitudes (up to 37,000 feet for commercial jets).

"The containers and vials were checked for leaks after every test," Lent noted.

"Historically, the drop tests cause the most frequent failures, especially if the package is small and heavy," Green noted. "Packages with large gaskets tend to be prone to leaks and frequently fail the leak and pressure tests. The avian flu package did well in part because it was small and lightweight."

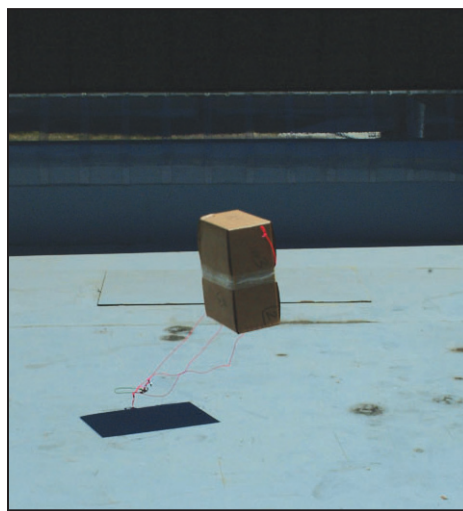
Evans agreed, pointing out that the drop tests cause the most stress, especially for the chilled plastic items because they are brittle at low temperatures.

The fiber board boxes were tested for water resistance to make sure they wouldn't fall apart if soaked. They were also tested to make sure they can withstand stacking.

"We stacked the containers to 10 feet and they passed these tests too," Lent said. "Each of the required tests is intended to expose the container system to the maximum transportation conditions that could possibly occur. The test conditions are harsh to an extreme as a built-in safety factor. The pass/fail criteria for every test are there can be no leakage from any vial, not one. Leakage from the vial would mean



Charlotte Lent subjects inner containers of avian influenza (bird flu) virus shipping containers to a leak test. (Photos by Tony Medici)



A shipping container designed for the avian influenza (bird flu) virus just before it hits the ground during a drop test.

release of the infectious substance to the environment and exposure of other freight and handlers."

Except for damage to the latch of one case, the internal components of all 21 containers came through the testing "without so much as a scratch," Lent said. Other features of the container are it can be gamma radiated and placed in an autoclave for decontamination. There is also a liner that can be removed for decontamination or destruction in case of a catastrophic failure of the vials or inner container.



Ben Moore shows a group of avian influenza (bird flu) virus vials after leak testing. Moore is an engineer with Science Applications International Corporation, a contractor to PSCC.



A complete shipping container designed for transporting fluid and tissue samples of any of the most highly infectious solid and airborne contaminants and pathogens.

Iraqi forces net multiple insurgents, weapons

WASHINGTON — Iraqi security forces captured 25 suspected terrorists and killed one in multiple operations throughout Iraq July 19-20, military officials in Iraq reported.

Iraqi security forces conducted two separate operations in Baghdad July 20, capturing four insurgents who may be involved in "extra judicial killing" cells.

The first operation by Iraqi security forces, a raid on back-to-back objectives in southwestern Baghdad, netted three primary targets. The first individual was a key insurgent leader believed to plan and coordinate insurgent operations in Baghdad, officials said. The second is allegedly involved in financing operations and supplying weapons to insurgents, and the third is believed to be involved in kidnapping Iraqi citizens, Iraqi police and Iraqi soldiers for ransom to finance insurgent activities.

He is also allegedly involved in murdering kidnapping victims and participating in attacks against coalition forces. Iraqi forces also seized three AK-47 assault rifles and three 9 mm pistols.

During a second raid in southern Baghdad, Iraqi soldiers captured an individual known to provide improvised explosive devices and small arms to insurgent groups.

In another operation, Iraqi soldiers captured six suspected terrorists and a large weapons cache during a search in northwestern Baghdad July 19 at about 2 p.m. After receiving a tip from a concerned citizen, Iraqi army soldiers searched an apartment complex in the suburban area and seized six terrorists and a weapons cache.

Elsewhere, Iraqi soldiers and Multinational Division Baghdad killed one terrorist and detained 10 others July 19 after a protracted firefight south of Baghdad.

At about 8 p.m., an Iraqi army patrol reported seeing mortars being fired from a blue truck and initiated a pursuit. The truck was being escorted by two vehicles carrying an unknown number of terrorists. The three vehicles separated as one stopped to engage the Iraqi army near a checkpoint.

Iraqi soldiers engaged the terrorists and were soon supported by U.S. Soldiers. Iraqi and U.S. soldiers killed one terrorist and detained five others.

In a separate operation, Iraqi soldiers arrested an Iraqi citizen and discovered an IED north of Baghdad July 19.

An Iraqi army patrol spotted four civilians hiding behind a wall. One of the civilians had a cell phone with a text message urging the recipient to detonate the IED. The suspect with the cell phone was detained and the IED was destroyed.

Editor's Note: Compiled from Multinational Corps Iraq news releases.



Col. Ron Alberto, depot commander, speaks to the thousands of people who attended the event. (Photo by Tony Medici)

TOBYHANNA

ARMY DEPOT

EXCELLENCE
IN ELECTRONICS



The 35th Infantry Division Band, Kansas Army National Guard, performed during the ceremony. (Photo by Lou Cossa)



Members of the depot civilian honor detachment, right, stand at attention as the U.S. Army Recruiting Command Color Guard center the colors during Thursday's Change of Command ceremony. (Photo by Charlie Cardimona)



A flyover by two CH-47 Chinook helicopters from B Company, 2-104th General Support Aviation Battalion, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, Fort Indiantown Gap, marked the end of the ceremony. (Photo by Charlie Cardimona)



Maj. Gen. Michael R. Mazzucchi, left, C-E LCMC commander, and Alberto arrive at the Change of Command ceremony. (Photo by Tony Medici)



Soldiers and civilian employees participated in the ceremony as members of the ceremonial staff, civilian honor detachment, color guard and band. (Photo by Charlie Cardimona)

CEREMONY from Page 1

growth in its work force, workload and worldwide presence. He mentioned Tobyhanna's support of critical systems such as Blue Force Tracking and Firefinder, and the depot's success in its safety, quality and environmental programs.

"Tobyhanna maintained its Occupational Safety and Health Administration Voluntary Protection Program Star Site designation, won two Secretary of the Army environmental quality awards, and was recertified for its ISO 9001 and 14001 quality and environmental management systems" he said. "Congratulations to the entire Tobyhanna team for staying on top of these issues that make a most successful organization a great place to work, too."

Mazzucchi presented Ellis with the Legion of Merit. Mrs. Ann Ellis received the Commander's Award for Public Service.

After thanking his wife and children for their support, Ellis remarked that his tour here was the

finest of his career.

"Today is the day I hoped would never come," Ellis said. "Many of my peers have told me that command of Tobyhanna Army Depot is the best job that a colonel could have. I agree with their assessment."

Ellis now serves as the deputy chief of staff at the U.S. Army Materiel Command.

The ceremony was capped by a flyover of two CH-47 Chinook helicopters by B Company, 2-104th General Support Aviation Battalion, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, Fort Indiantown Gap.

Ceremony participants included a color guard from the U.S. Army Recruiting Command, the 35th Infantry Division Band, Kansas Army National Guard, a Tobyhanna Army Depot Civilian Honor Detachment consisting of employees selected for their significant contributions during Ellis' command, and depot military personnel.



Cols. Ron and Donna Alberto, second from left, greet guests at a reception at The Landing. (Photo by Tony Medici)

WELCOME TO THE DEPOT

Name	Title	Organization
George Avery	Equipment cleaner	D/SIS
Carolyn Briscoe	Secretary	D/ISR
Joseph Dacri	Equipment cleaner	D/SIS
Daniel Davis	Equipment cleaner	D/SIS
Thomas Devine	Equipment specialist	D/C3/Avionics
Linda Frisbie	Equipment cleaner	D/SIS
Donald Hedrick	Equipment cleaner	D/SIS
Ralph Hogarth	Equip specialist, electronics	D/C3/Avionics
Brian King	Electronics mechanic	D/C3/Avionics
John Kinney	Sheet metal mechanic helper	D/SIS
Robert Mustin	Equip specialist, electronics	D/C3/Avionics
Marlon Nasatka	Sheet metal mechanic helper	D/SIS
Frank Perry	Equipment cleaner	D/SIS
Edward Polifko	Secretary	D/ISR
James Popovich	Sheet metal mechanic helper	D/SIS
Richard Stetler	Electronics mechanic	D/C3/Avionics
Dale Ward	Logistics management spec	D/C3/Avionics

NEW SUPERVISORS

Denis Calarco is the Antenna Systems Branch chief, Satellite Communications Division, Communications Systems Directorate.

As chief, he supervises 34 technicians who rebuild, repair, overhaul, align, modify, test and install various tactical satellite antenna units and subassemblies here and at worldwide sites. They also provide technical assistance and training to Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy customers.

Prior to his current position, Calarco was an electronics mechanic leader for the same branch. He began his career at Tobyhanna in May 1981.

Calarco served in the Army for six years and in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard for 14 years, retiring as a staff sergeant. During his career he worked as a cartographer, combat engineer and motor vehicle operator.

He served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. His awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, Army Service Ribbon and the Southwest Asia Service Medal.

Calarco is a 1970 graduate of Hazleton High School. He earned an associate's degree in general drafting from Ryder Technical Institute, Allentown, in 1972.

He and his wife, Frances, reside in Hazleton. They are the parents of Peter, 27, Denis, 23, Timothy, 21, and Jenny, 20.

Calarco is a member of the



Calarco



Kraftchisin

Hazle Township Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company.

His hobbies include model building, classic cars and tinkering around the house.

Edward

Kraftchisin is the Fabrication Support Branch chief, Electronic Services Division, Systems Integration and Support Directorate.

As chief, he supervises 29 technicians who fabricate, overhaul, repair, test and install regular, semi-rigid radio frequency, and fiber optic cable assemblies on systems such as the AN/TPS-75 Firefinder systems, AN/GPN-22 Radar Set, AN/MPN-14K Landing Control Central, and miniaturized multiple threat emitter systems. Technicians also fabricate cable assemblies for Firefinder's Modular Azimuth Positioning System (MAPS), RECAP and foreign military sales.

The branch is certified to work on all types of cables and military tactical and commercial fiber optic connectors.

Prior to his current position, Kraftchisin was a maintenance mechanic leader for the Facilities Maintenance Division, Public Works Directorate. He began his career at Tobyhanna in March 1989.

Kraftchisin is a 1988 graduate of Pittston Area High School. He has attended classes at Lackawanna Junior College, Luzerne County Community College and online with Defense Acquisition University.

He and his wife, Tracy, reside in Pittston Township.

NEW DIVISION CHIEF

James Powell is the Communications Security Division chief, Communications Systems Directorate.

As chief, he supervises 135 technical, administrative and clerical employees who overhaul, repair, receive, store and issue communications security equipment.

Prior to his current position, Powell was chief of the Support Services Branch. He began his career at Tobyhanna in March 1978.



Powell

Powell served in the Air Force for two years and the Air Force Reserve for seven years. He worked as an aerospace ground equipment repair technician while assigned to McGuire Air Force Base, N.J. His awards and decorations include the National Defense Ribbon.

Powell is a 1970 graduate of Pittston Area High School

He and his wife, Kathleen, reside in Avoca. They are the parents of Francine, 33, James, 29, and Matthew, 15.

Powell is a member of Saint John's Primitive Methodist Church in Avoca.

His hobbies include hunting and fishing.

Thumbs up, thumbs down Warfighters field test meals-ready-to-eat, make changes

by Gerald Darsch and Kathy Evangelos
U.S. Army Natick Soldier Center's
DoD Combat Feeding Program

Would your home-cooked meal survive three years stored in a hot, stifling warehouse, being dropped out of an airplane, and being left to nature's weather, bugs and vermin? Most assuredly not, and you undoubtedly wouldn't attempt to eat it after all that. But, if your meal was a Meal, Ready-to-Eat, it would be as fresh as the day you prepared it.

The research, development, testing and engineering of combat feeding systems is the mission of the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Center's Department of Defense Combat Feeding Program. The NSC is committed to providing revolutionary, state-of-the-art science and engineering in the development of combat rations, field food service equipment and total combat feeding systems. The task is accomplished with over 100 professionals who specialize in the fields of food science, engineering and packaging.

History

The MRE replaced the Meal, Combat Individual, also known as "C-Ration" beginning in 1980. From its year of introduction to 1987, the MRE contained such memorable items as: ham and chicken loaf, smoky franks (aka "the Five Fingers of Death"), chicken a la king (or chicken "a la death") and freeze dried pork, beef and potato patties. In 1988, eight of the original 12 entrees were replaced with entrees that were slightly more identifiable, to include spaghetti and meat sauce.

The MRE was delivered to troops in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. However, the initial feedback on the MRE wasn't pretty.

In 1991, a Joint Services Operational Rations Forum was conceived with the purpose of redesigning the MRE. NSC surveyed warfighters in the field to identify what food items should go into the MRE. Prototype MRE's were assembled and field test sites and units set up.

Two groups of warfighters contributed to the field test: one group consumed the current MRE as the control and the other evaluated the new menus and components. The highly rated items replaced the least acceptable ones.



Two Soldiers consume a Meal, Ready to Eat as part of a Natick Soldier Center's Department of Defense Combat Feeding Program field test.

The process began in 1991, with the first new components appearing in the MRE in 1992. From 1993 to 2006, over 165 new items have been included in the MRE. Memorable moments in the MRE improvement program include: in 1992, hot sauce was added to every menu; in 1993, warfighters received the Flameless Ration Heater; 1994, was the last year for freeze-dried fruit (too expensive); in 1998, the menus increased from 20 to 24, to include four vegetarian; the hot beverage bag was added in 2005; and this year, the ergonomically designed drink pouch for dairy shakes was added to the MRE.

All in all, over 6,000 warfighters have contributed to the MRE improvement program since 1992. Nothing goes in or out of an MRE without critical warfighter input.

A Look Ahead

In the past two years, 29 new items have been approved for the MRE for 2007 and 2008.

Self-heating packages, new package designs, as well as heating and cooling technologies for rations and beverages, will further enhance combat feeding systems for the warfighter.

The advancement of combat rations and feeding systems will continue to be driven by revolutionary advances in science and technology.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Editor's Note: The Community Bulletin provides an avenue for depot and tenant employees to advertise van or car pools, and for-sale items. Money making items such as rentals and personal business will not be accepted.

Information must be submitted via e-mail to Jacqueline. Boucher@tobyhanna.army.mil, or written items can be mailed to the Public Affairs Office, mail stop 5076.

Submissions must include a name and telephone extension. Only home phone numbers will be published in the Trading Post section.

Ads will be published in four consecutive newspapers. It is the customer's responsibility to update or renew items listed in the Community Bulletin.

For more information, call Jacqueline Boucher, X58073.

- **Broadheadsville, Palmerton:** openings 5/4/9, along routes 209 and 115, and Kuhenbeaker and Long Pond roads, call Keith, X7925.
- **Back Mountain, Swoyersville, Forty Fort, Kingston:** new, van pool, 7 passenger, 5/4/9, non-smoking, contact Chris Antall by e-mail or call X59088.
- **Moosic, Greenwood, Minooka:** 2 openings, van pool, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., door-to-door pickup, call Matt, X56733.
- **Larksville, Kingston, Plymouth, South Wilkes-Barre:** new, van pool, 7 passenger, non-smoking, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., leaves Price Chopper parking lot in Edwardsville at 5:45 a.m., call John Stochla, X58793 or Wayne Watkins, X5-8569.
- **Lakeville, Hawley, Tafton:** new van pool, or Lakeville, Hamlin and Sterling areas, call Shep, X56059.
- **Jim Thorpe, surrounding area:** 1-2 openings, van, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., call Pat, X57671.
- **Eynon, Peckville, Blakely, Jessup:** 2 openings, 7 passengers, van, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., non-smoking, contact Kathy Moeller, X56859 or e-mail Katherine.moeller@us.army.mil.
- **Clarks Summit:** 1 opening, car, 5/4/9, first Friday off, non-smoking, "A" placard, , call Joan, X56223.
- **Pittston:** 1 opening starting Sept. 1, submit form by July 15 to receive vouchers, 15 passengers, van, 5/4/9, pick up

point is Pittston Plaza, send e-mail or call Linda Cohen, X57362 or Bill Klimchak, X57230.

- **Stroudsburg:** 1 opening, 5/4/9, van, pickup point in south Stroudsburg, e-mail John.kulp@tobyhanna.army.mil.
- **Clarks Summit:** 1 opening, van, 5/4/9, "A" placard, non-smoking, call Dave Burt, X58902 or Rich Joyce, X56774.
- **Plains, Wilkes Barre, Miners Mills:** 2 openings, van, 15 passengers, 5/4/9, call Joe Walski, X57240.
- **Clarks Summit:** 2 openings, 5/4/9, pickup point at the VFW, contact John Bevard, X56250 or e-mail.
- **Pittston:** Openings, 5/4/9, leaves Pittston Plaza at 6 a.m., call Stanley, X59967 or Dave, X57067.
- **Taylor:** Individual seeks van pool, 6-7 passengers, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., call Steve Kishel, X58727.
- **Palmerton, West End, Brodheadville:** Openings, 5/4/9, Routes 115/940 area, send e-mail to Keith Orach.
- **Dallas, Shavertown, Exeter:** Accepting names for waiting list, 7 passengers, van, non-smoking, 5/4/9, contact Bob Redinski, X59184 or send e-mail.
- **Waymart, Lake Ariel, Sterling:** 1 opening, 7 passengers, van, 5/4/9, call Wade Myrthel, X59291.
- **Wilkes Barre:** 1-2 openings, car, 5/4/9, first Friday off, "A" placard, starts at Sam's Club, call Jean, X56261 or 510-7692.
- **Air Conditioner:** Portable, floor model, 10,000 BTU, used 3 months, cost \$385, asking \$200, call Gloria, 876-3978.
- **Honda Civic:** 1997, DX, 4-door, standard transmission, 149k miles, excellent gas mileage, blue book \$3,640, asking \$2,500, call Felicia, 894-9791 after 7 p.m.
- **Chevy van:** 1995, Astro conversion, burgundy, 85k miles, 4.3 liter engine, ABS, A/C, C/C, tilt steering, overhead/mood lights, front and rear speakers, rear electric seat/bed, rear mounted vacuum and fire extinguisher, and electric mirrors, doors, locks, and windows, asking \$4,995, call Dennis, 610-377-2588.
- **Mercury Marque:** 1993, Grey, 4.6 liter engine, under 70k, backend (right side) hit, asking \$900 OBO, call Denise, 570-788-3767.
- **Truck cap:** Leer, white with roof rack, sliding tinted windows, 3 years old, fits Chevy trucks 1999-2006, excellent

condition, asking \$850 OBO, call Sandy, 351-8091.

- **Captain's chairs:** full-size, never used, includes bases, blue/silver, asking \$40 each OBO, and a Foosball table, \$25, call David, 457-5783.
- **Car seat:** Alpha Omega, 5-point adjustable harness, 5-40 pounds; rear facing 5-35 pounds and forward facing, 22-40 pounds, excellent condition, asking \$25, call Karen, 842-1204.
- **Misc. items:** Large igloo-style dog house, \$20; portable manual typewriter with case, good condition, old, sturdy, all metal, \$25; mini trampoline, 36-inch diameter, for exercising, \$10; cardioglide exerciser, push/pull action, \$15; and ice cream machine, like new, freeze canister, makes about 1/2 gallon, \$10, call Ruth Montalbano, 676-5246 after 5 p.m.
- **Golf clubs:** Titleist 8040S irons, RH, 3 to PW, stiff steel shafts, good condition, asking \$225; Taylor Made Rescue Mid, RH, #2 hybrid, 16 degrees, stiff steel shaft, like new, \$60; many more used golf clubs, call Chris, 332-9181.
- **Canoe:** Looking to purchase a canoe, call Mary, 504-4827.
- **Sleeper sofa:** Queen-size, \$150 OBO, call Darlene, 894-4912.
- **Boat:** Starcraft Semi V, 12 feet, 10 horsepower Johnson outboard motor, trailer, \$1,495, call Al Aukscunas, 343-9541.
- **Pool heater:** Hayward, hoses included, 150,000 BTU, like new, used one season, original cost \$1,000, asking \$650, call Darlene, 894-4912.
- **Household items:** Antique dining hutch, \$250; antique round pedestal occasional table, \$75; youth, wood bunk bed set with mattresses, \$60; youth 3-drawer dresser and 4-drawer desk, \$20 each; recliner, \$40; weight set and bench, \$30, and brass bed, \$200, call Terry, 839-2416 or 839-9428.
- **Recreational vehicles:** ATV, 2005 Polaris Trail Boss 330, excellent condition, rode twice, \$3,500 OBO, and 1998 Ford Minnie Winnebago, 22 feet, Class C, 33,682 miles, sleeps 6, bathroom in rear w/stand-up shower, roof A/C and heater, trailer hitch, refrigerator, freezer, 3-burner stove/oven, microwave/hood combo, color TV, DVD player, asking \$26,500, call Cristin, 472-3319 or 972-6332.
- **Windows:** (2) special order, 25.5x48.5 (rough opening), call Gloria, 876-3978.

Army & Air Force Exchange turns 111

DALLAS (AFPN) -- The Army & Air Force Exchange Service marked its 111th birthday Monday, celebrating its mission to provide quality goods and services at competitively low prices and generate earnings to support morale, welfare and recreation programs.

On July 25, 1895, the War Department issued General Order No. 46 directing commanders to establish an exchange at every post where practicable. Today, AAFES relies on more than 3,100 facilities in 49 states and more than 35 countries to extend the exchange benefit to servicemembers serving in almost every corner of the globe.

"As the 'new urbanism' vision of military community development becomes reality, we want to act as the integrator of all types of retail shops to serve the community," said Maj. Gen. Paul W. "Bill" Essex, AAFES commander.

More than 450 AAFES associates are deployed to operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, actively delivering a slice of Americana to troops through 52 retail stores, 69 phone centers and more than 170 fast food restaurants scattered throughout the region. Just like the merchants who supplied provisions to America's troops in the late 1800s, these associates live and work alongside the troops they serve.

Since its establishment in 1895, AAFES has been involved in 14 major contingencies and several dozen humanitarian and disaster relief contingencies.

"The scope and intensity of AAFES global operations demonstrates that wherever our troops serve, AAFES is dedicated to providing them uniformly low prices on the services and merchandise they need," General Essex said.

Army Civilian Corps established

by Andricka Hammonds
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Top Army leaders announced the establishment of the Army Civilian Corps last month.

"The Army Civilian Corps is meant to unify the Army civilian service and embody the commitment of civilians who serve as an integral part of our Army team," said Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker in a joint memorandum to Army personnel.

Army civilians work side by side with Soldiers deployed around the world. They have played many roles in America's fight against terror, from assisting in reconstruction projects in Iraq and Afghanistan to training Soldiers for deployment.

"The Corps provides identity for the civilian force comparable to their military counterparts

– the officer, enlisted and NCO Corps," said Melinda McMillon Darby, Assistant G-1 for Civilian Personnel.

The Army Civilian Corps Creed and the memorandum establishing the Corps are available at the civilian personnel Web site at www.cpol.army.mil under "Top Army Initiatives."

Establishment of the Corps is a result of a study conducted by the Army Training and Leadership Development Panel from August 2001 to February 2003.

Through written and online surveys with civilians, focus-group sessions and personal interviews, an panel comprised of senior civilian and military subject-matter-experts concluded the needs and concerns of Army civilians. The study also resulted in the November 2004 establishment of the Civilian Advisory Board, which serves as an advocate for civilian matters raised to the Army chief of staff.

Red Cross Blood Drive

The depot's Red Cross blood drive dates are the first and third Wednesday of each month. To schedule an appointment, employees must obtain supervisory approval and then call X57091.



Lead-free electronics: Beneficial but caution required

by Raymond Rowe
Productivity Improvement and
Innovation Directorate

The effort to replace lead-based solder in electronics may affect Tobyhanna.

The European Union (EU) Directive on the Restriction of use of certain Hazardous Substances (RoHS) restricts the use of six substances, including lead, in electrical and electronic equipment placed on the consumer market after July 1. The others are cadmium, mercury, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyl (PBB) and polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE) flame retardants.

However, the use of restricted substances in spare parts to repair equipment placed on the market before July 2006 will be permitted.

As a result, electronics component and equipment manufacturers worldwide are developing new manufacturing processes for “lead free” components as well as printed circuit boards (PCBs).

Although this directive does not apply to military equipment, Tobyhanna Army Depot personnel should be aware of this “lead free” initiative, as well as its potential impact on missions. Documentation exists which attributes the use of lead-free solder to failures of military electronics equipment.

One of the problems with the restriction is finding

a reliable substitute for lead-based solder. Several formulations have been developed using various alloys. The most promising is tin-silver-copper. References made to lead-free solder are usually to this alloy, which uses over 95 percent tin with a small percentage of silver and a smaller percentage of copper.

How is it different?

Traditional solder used for electronic equipment is composed of both tin and lead. The solder authorized for most electronic work is the 63/37 (63 percent tin, 37 percent lead). This replaced the old 60/40 solder. Both melt at around 356 F. As they cool, they exhibit a bright, shiny, smooth finish. This is often what inspectors look for in determining whether a solder joint is good.

Lead-free solder requires a temperature of 441 F; which means that extra caution must be taken to avoid burning the circuit cards. Inspectors will also notice that the solder joints are dull and that wetting (i.e. spread) is not as extensive. Pictures describing “good” 63/37 solder joints are no longer relevant for these high tin solders.

What are the risks?

There are potential reliability issues with the use of lead-free solder that contains a high percentage of tin. Over time, these lead-free solders can spontaneously grow crystals. These crystals are often referred to as tin whiskers.

Tin whiskers act as tiny hair-sized wire connections, which continue to grow. Over time, this can result in short circuits, electronics component damage, equipment failures and have even been known to ignite explosive fires.

The likelihood of damage caused by tin whiskers is made even more prevalent by the emphasis on size reduction of newer circuitry and the consequential pad and run spacing that follows with narrow pitch components tending toward 5mm spacing.

Older legacy circuits which keep a wider clearance of better than 13mm between runs are much less likely to be affected. Even these are not totally immune. It has been found that even old style circuits (0.1 inch Dual Inline Packages), in some cases, use pure tin plating to cover the lead frame. Pure Tin plating can grow very long crystals, sometimes enough to bridge that relatively large gap.

Confounding the issue is the 1998 directive relaxing documented substitution of materials in COTS (commercial off-the-shelf) electronic products. COTS products increased dramatically since then and items which use COTS circuit boards and modules are likely to use pure tinned parts. Replacement components that are tinned with lead-free solder do not present a problem when 63/37 solder is used. The resultant solder joint closely matches the characteristics of leaded solder.

What are we doing?

Larry Weber, electronics engineer, reports that ambiguities which previously allowed lead-free solder substitution have been addressed. Tobyhanna now has part numbers which identify solder by lead content so there can be no mistake that the correct solder is ordered.

Mike Parrent, Pollution Prevention program manager, reports that lead free solder has been removed from all authorized user lists. He also said that no one has authorization in HMMS (Hazardous Material Management System) to receive it, and the system reminds the Issue Point operator that when someone requests lead-free, that they are not authorized.

What can we do?

Personnel associated with ordering, stocking and receiving hazardous materials, and those actually using solder and electronic components, need to be watchful for the words “lead free” and/or “RoHS Compliant.”

Personnel ordering replacement parts should specify “RoHS compliant electronic components or parts are strictly prohibited for Tobyhanna use – no substitution accepted” and include with each order.

Anyone seeing items with the labeling described above should contact Ray Rowe, X59906, or Larry Weber, X58226, Process Engineering Division, Productivity Improvement and Innovation Directorate.

For more information about RoHS, go to www.rohs.gov.uk.



Mark Baurys solders a connection for a TRN-26B shelter power cable. There is an initiative to find a practical lead-free solder, although it does not apply to military equipment. Baurys is an electronics mechanic in the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate's Air Traffic Control Division. (Photo by Anthony Ricchiazzi)

AF liaison retires; joins civilian work force here

A military ceremony July 17 marked the formal retirement of Air Force Master Sgt. Christopher S. Flint.

Flint, who now is the civilian chief of the Air Traffic Control Division, was honored for completing a 20-year Air Force career earlier this year. ATCALs is in Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate.

Prior to his retirement, Flint was the liaison non-commissioned officer for the Air Combat Command at Tobyhanna for more than three years.

During the ceremony, Flint was presented the Army Commendation

Medal and a Presidential Letter of Appreciation. His wife Marie also received an Air Force Certificate of Appreciation.

Flint is a native of New York State and a 1985 graduate of South Glen Falls High School. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1986

His career has included assignments at Headquarters, U.S. Air Force Space Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado; Rhein Main, Germany, and Headquarters, U.S. Pacific Command, at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

His awards and decorations include

the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with an oak leaf cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Metal, National Defense Medal with an oak leaf cluster, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Upon completion of his military career, he joined the depot civilian work force in February.

He and his wife, Marie are the parents of four children, Krystal, Allysia, Madison and Ayden. The Flints reside in Moscow.



The Flint family, from left, Allysia, Marie, Ayden, Christopher and Madison.